

Message Text

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70-72

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 252352 Z APR 73

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7695

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1553

EXDIS

DEPT PASS DEFENSE AND AID

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UN, SWEL, PINR, BG, UR

SUBJ: BANGLADESH-- SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE

REF: USUN 1477

1. SUMMARY. CHITTAGONG AND CHALNA SHIP SALVAGE OPERATIONS ARE ENTERING INTO FINAL PHASE OF INITIAL TASKS THAT WERE ASSIGNED. WITH ADDITIONAL SALVAGE TASKS REMAINING IN BOTH PORTS, SITUATION WHICH LIES AHEAD MAY PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES AFFECTING US INTERESTS, INCLUDING, INTER ALIA, PRESENCE SOVIET NAVAL UNITS. CONTENTS THIS MESSAGE BASED ON OBSERVATIONS OF PROGRESS OF SALVAGE OPERATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS USUN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ADVISERS WITH UNROB OFFICIALS NEW YORK. DISCUSSIONS HELD MAINLY WITH CONSULTANT RETAINED BY UNROD, WHICH WAS PREDECESSOR TO UNROB, FOR SURVEY CHALNA PORT SALVAGE. SOVIET AND CONSORTIUM (SMIT- TAK, NETHERLANDS/ U. HAMES, FRG/ FUKADA, JAPAN) SALVAGE FLEETS ARE BOTH PRESENTLY POSITIONED FOR ADDITIONAL WORK. IF EVOLVING SITUATION PRESENTS OPPORTUNITIES OR HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR US INTERESTS, TIMELY ACTION WILL BE REQUIRED. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT, FOLLOWING END OF HOSTILITIES WITH PAKISTAN, BDG CONSIDERED CLEARANCE OF CHITTAGONG AND CHALNA PORTS ONE OF ITS PRIMORDIAL TASKS. MUJIB SOUGHT ASSISTANCE FROM UN OVER SEVERAL
CONFIDENTIAL

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MONTHS. NOTWITHSTANDING CONFIRMATION OF THE NEED AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE UN IN DACCA, THERE WAS NEVER, APPARENTLY, A CLEAR RESPONSE FROM UNNY REFLECTING WHAT BD CONSTRUED TO BE AN URGENT MATTER.

IN THE MEANTIME THE SOVIETS HAD OFFERED SALVAGE ASSIST- EIGN) THAT
OLYMPIC REPRESENTS.

REPLY BY CABLE. ROGERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NMAFVVZCZ

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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